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# AS220 Youth Resources Spring 1999

AS220

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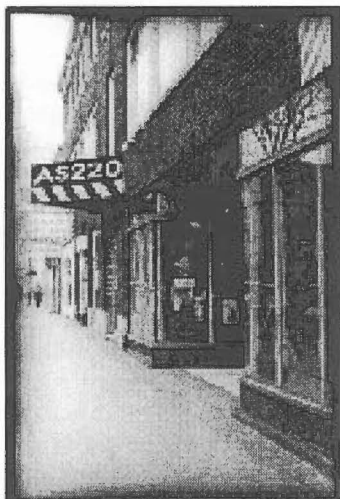
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# AS220

## Youth Resources Spring 1999



A snapshot of AS220's current youth programs and partnerships

For more information on these programs contact Lauren Brooke, Americorps\*VISTA member, at 831-9327 or [lauren@as220.org](mailto:lauren@as220.org)

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## **AS220 and Youth**

Like so many things at AS220, youth programs have developed slowly and organically, with the organization accepting opportunities and gradually building permanent organizational responses to these challenges.

AS220's policy of inclusivity has always been extended to youth. From its inception, AS220 has strived to make all performances all ages and worked to include youth programming on our stage and gallery walls.

In 1998, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Program for Exemplary Community Art Centers awarded AS220 a large four-year grant. One of the cornerstones of the request was AS220's commitment to strengthening outreach to the youth of Rhode Island.

## **Partnerships**

AS220's youth programs have been produced in partnership with a wide variety of organizations, including the Corporation for National Service, Rhode Island School of Design, Mount Pleasant High School, the Met School, the Rhode Island Training School, Veazie Street Elementary School, Sackett Street Elementary School, Rhode Island Youth Guidance, the Learning Connection, Very Special Arts Rhode Island, the Langston Hughes Center for the Arts and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Program for Exemplary Community Art Centers.

## **Muse Union**

Created at AS220 in the fall of 1998, the Muse Union is a group of professional artists, school administrators, community volunteers and high school youth formed to create an association for creativity, leadership and empowerment for youth. Chapters of the Union, set up by students at schools around the area, will serve as support centers for students striving to locate creative outlets.

These chapters will work with school administrations, AS220 and other community partners to create contexts for performances, visual arts, writing, music and more. Chapters will meet with chapters from other schools, creating cross-pollination for students normally isolated by geography, culture or class. To date, the Muse Union has

- Established chapters at Mount Pleasant High School, the Met School and the Rhode Island Training School.
- Held a Constitutional Congress where members of all three chapters explored issues of self-governance
- Opened communications between chapters via an email listserv and weekly meetings at AS220. A Muse Union newsletter is also being developed
- Dedicated one of AS220's galleries to Muse Union exhibitions.
- Secured a commitment from the Corporation for National Service to provide each chapter of the Muse Union with an Americorps\*VISTA member.

For more information on the Muse Union, contact Americorps\*VISTA member Lauren Brooke at 401 831-9327 or [lauren@as220.org](mailto:lauren@as220.org)

## **AS220 and the Rhode Island Training School**

For the past 6 months, AS220 has been building a working relationship with the Rhode Island Training School (RITS), Rhode Island's juvenile correctional facility. Since November 1998, AS220 has

- Provided administrative support for an evening of performance and spoken word at the Training School
- Initiated a book drive in cooperation with the Rhode Island School of Design. Crates of books of art history, reproductions and technique were added to the RITS library.
- Contributed administrative, accounting and editorial help to the publication of IMPACT publication of IMPACT, an anthology representing the work of over 60 poets from RITS (172 pages, over 250 poems).
- Held the Muse Union Constitutional Congress at RITS, with student members of the Mount Pleasant High School, the Met School and RITS Muse Union chapters in attendance
- Hosted an exhibit of calligraphy by over 40 New England artists highlighting select poems from the IMPACT anthology.

For more information on AS220's work with RITS, contact Americorps\*VISTA member Kim Kazan at 401 831-9327 or [kazan@as220.org](mailto:kazan@as220.org)

## **Youth In Action**

Youth In Action is a nonprofit youth leadership/service organization run by and for people aged 10-20. Youth In Action has enjoyed explosive growth since October 1997, and 56 youth members now choose and implement their programs, which have included community forums and celebrations, organizing projects at the new Art Park at the corner of Prairie and Richardson Streets, and creating and teaching intensive health curricula in high schools.

AS220 has been involved in YIA almost since its inception, and we now provide office and meeting space, Americorps\*VISTA administration, and informal day-to-day assistance. In return, Youth In Action has brought a tremendous amount of energy and activity into the building and an inhouse partner/advisory team to help with AS220's ongoing efforts to involve youth in our organization.

For more information on Youth In Action, contact Karen Feldman at 401 751-4264

## **Community Darkroom**

The Darkroom's staff has successfully taught and hosted classes for Rhode Island schools and enrichment programs, including the Met School, Rhode Island Youth Guidance, the Learning Connection, Very Special Arts Rhode Island and the Langston Hughes Center for the Arts.

For more information on the Community Darkroom, contact Scott Lapham at 401 274-1299 or [scott@as220.org](mailto:scott@as220.org)

## **Youth Arts Conference**

For the past four years, AS220 has hosted an annual Youth Arts Conference. This 2 day program brings elementary school students into direct interaction with working artists. The Youth Arts Conference is coproduced by AS220 staff, Very Special Arts and school faculty. Up to 15 professional artists (many of whom are AS220 staff and residents) are hired to carry out the workshops. Participating schools have included the Veazie Street and Sackett Street schools.

For more information on the Youth Arts Conference, contact Americorps\*VISTA member Lauren Brooke at 401 831-9327 or [lauren@as220.org](mailto:lauren@as220.org)

## **Technology**

AS220's Public Access Computer Lab has been a focal point of youth activity since it opened in 1997. In 1998 the lab hosted a web design class run by The Artist's Group, a program of Rhode Island Youth Guidance. The lab also has an unstructured but intense relationship with the kids from Youth In Action, who fill the room every weekday afternoon.

For more information on the Public Access Computer Lab, contact Shawn Wallace at 401 831-9327 or [shawn@as220.org](mailto:shawn@as220.org)